

Amdt. dated April 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of 7/29/2003

Serial No. 09/981,560
Docket No. BLD920010018US1
Firm No. 0036.0094

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-40, 42-48 and 50-58. The Examiner has objected to claims 6, 14, 41, 49, 59-66 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 6, 14, 41, 49, 59-66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44 to include the requirements of objected claims 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66 respectively, and canceled the objected claims 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66. Applicants traverse the rejections and objections, and maintain that claims 1-58, 61, 63 are patentable over the cited art and in a condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 6, 14, 41, 49, 61, 63 to eliminate limitations already included in the amended independent claims on which the amended dependent claims 6, 14, 41, 49, 61, 63 depend.

Amended Independent claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44

Independent claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44 have been amended to include the requirements of objected claims 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66 respectively. Certain grammatical errors, including antecedent basis errors, have been corrected. The Examiner has indicated that the objected claims 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The objected claims 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66 directly depended on independent claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44 respectively.

For the above reasons, claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44 are patentable over the cited art, either alone or in combination.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37-43, 45-58, 61, 63

The Examiner has also rejected or objected to pending claims 2-8, 10-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37-43, 45-58, 61, 63 where pending claims 2-8, 10-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37-43, 45-58, 61, 63 depend directly or indirectly on independent claims 1, 9, 24, 28, 36, 44 which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, pending claims 2-8, 10-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37-43, 45-58, 61, 63 are patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-58, 61, 63 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any new claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 557-2292 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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